

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs

FISCAL YEAR 1975-76

Submitted by

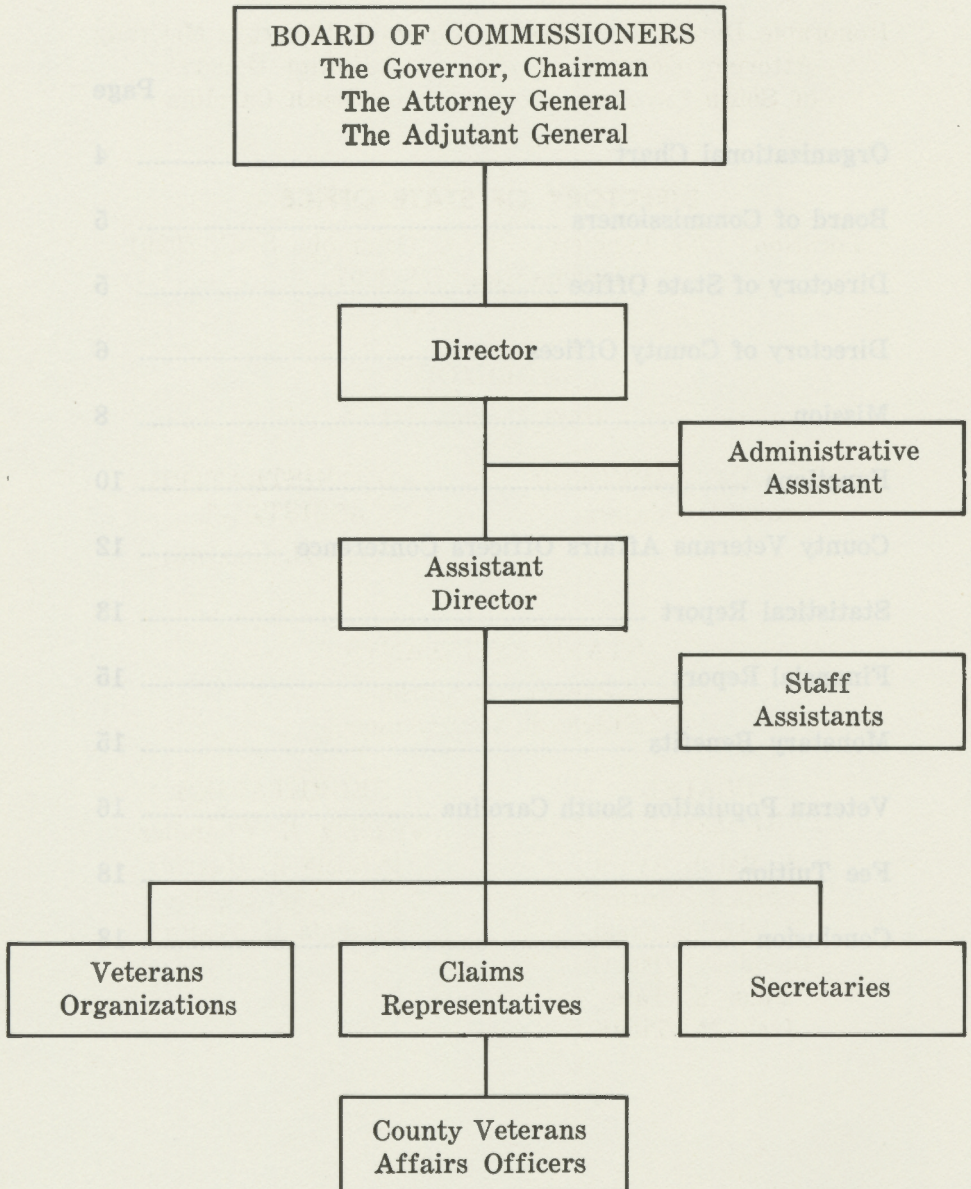
Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S. C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina

September 1, 1976

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**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN

Honorable James B. Edwards

Governor of South Carolina

Honorable Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General
of South Carolina

Honorable Robert L. McCrady
Adjutant General
of South Carolina

DIRECTORY OF STATE OFFICE

Location: 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, S. C. 29201

Telephone No.: 758-2607

DIRECTOR

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Grady D. Majors

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nancy H. Goodwin

STAFF ASSISTANTS

Beverley J. Shirley

Erdene P. Haltiwanger

CLAIMS

REPRESENTATIVES

S. Ralph Ayers

Lawrie H. Harmon

W. Arthur Neal

David A. Osborn

John K. Tate

Jack M. Tiller

SECRETARIES

Virginia K. Chandler

Patricia A. Harris

Lettie W. Rogers

Eugenia G. Watts

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

| County | Officer | Location | Telephone No. |
|--------------|-------------------------|--|---------------|
| Abbeville | Charlie C. Murdock | Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S. C. 29620 | 459-2608 |
| Aiken | Lucien J. Hockman | 226 Chesterfield St., S P. O. Box 357 Aiken, S. C. 29801 | 648-7846 |
| Allendale | John H. Hewlett | Memorial Building Allendale, S. C. 29810 | 584-2942 |
| Anderson | Fred S. Winstead | 1621 North Main St. Anderson, S. C. 29621 | 224-3901 |
| Bamberg | B. Monroe Hiers | 109 North Street P. O. Box 416 Bamberg, S. C. 29003 | 245-2494 |
| Barnwell | Douglas Gene Rowell | Room 101 County Office Building P. O. Box 871 Barnwell, S. C. 29812 | 259-3676 |
| Beaufort | C. B. Epps, Jr. | County Office Building P. O. Box 97 Beaufort, S. C. 29902 | 524-3730 |
| Berkeley | Joseph R. West | 334 East Main Street P. O. Box 1241 Moncks Corner, S. C. 29461 | 899-2222 |
| Calhoun | Eldred S. Robinson | Agriculture Building St. Matthews, S. C. 29135 | 874-3816 |
| Charleston | Thomas R. Johnson, Sr. | Room 322 The Center Charleston, S. C. 29403 | 577-5111 |
| Cherokee | Floyd A. Queen | County Courthouse Gaffney, S. C. 29340 | 489-5172 |
| Chester | J. B. Cranford | War Memorial Bldg. P. O. Box 957 Chester, S. C. 29706 | 385-6157 |
| Chesterfield | Harlan Campbell | 101 Park Drive Chesterfield, S. C. 29709 | 623-2482 |
| Clarendon | Norman J. McFaddin | Room 203 County Courthouse Manning, S. C. 29102 | 435-2527 |
| Colleton | G. Herman Kinard | Agriculture Building P. O. Box 627 Walterboro, S. C. 29488 | 549-1412 |
| Darlington | Clarence H. Jordan, Jr. | County Courthouse Darlington, S. C. 29532 | 393-1051 |
| Dillon | George M. Pullie | Agriculture Building Dillon, S. C. 29536 | 774-9681 |

| County | Officer | Location | Telephone No. |
|------------|------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Dorchester | George W. Thomas | Old High School Bldg. Raysor & Ridge Sts. P. O. Box 661 St. George, S. C. 29477 | 563-2331 Ex 216 |
| Edgefield | Harold O. Holmes | County Courthouse P. O. Box 5 Edgefield, S. C. 29824 | 637-3224 |
| Fairfield | Charles A. Medlin | County Courthouse P. O. Box 456 Winnsboro, S. C. 29180 | 635-4131 |
| Florence | Mrs. Etta A. Jaillette | City-County Complex Box T Florence, S. C. 29501 | 665-3045 |
| Georgetown | Mrs. Maria H. Padget | County Office Building P. O. Box 306 Georgetown, S. C. 29440 | 546-7734 |
| Greenville | John W. Fortner | 119 Mallard Street Greenville, S. C. 29601 | 233-1611 |
| Greenwood | Thomas E. Fish | Room 108 County Courthouse P. O. Box 441 Greenwood, S. C. 29646 | 229-5500 |
| Hampton | Perry L. Chisolm | B. T. DeLoach Office Bldg. P. O. Box 476 Hampton, S. C. 29924 | 943-2258 |
| Horry | A. David Altman | County Health Center P. O. Box 385 Conway, S. C. 29526 | 248-9021 |
| Jasper | J. E. Horton, Jr. | County Courthouse Ridgeland, S. C. 29936 | 726-8940 |
| Kershaw | Harold R. Truesdale | Room 225 County Courthouse P. O. Box 691 Camden, S. C. 29020 | 432-4096 |
| Lancaster | Ward M. Faulkenberry | County Courthouse P. O. Box 282 Lancaster, S. C. 29720 | 283-2469 |
| Laurens | Mrs. Christine E. Bolt | Courthouse Annex P. O. Box 193 Laurens, S. C. 29360 | 984-4041 |
| Lee | John Z. King | Lee County Courthouse P. O. Box 461 Bishopville, S. C. 29010 | 484-5341 Ext. 254 |
| Lexington | Robert S. Powell | Room 103 Community Building P. O. Box 811 Lexington, S. C. 29072 | 359-4225 |
| McCormick | T. C. Faulkner, Jr. | County Office Building McCormick, S. C. 29835 | 465-4275 |
| Marion | Joe S. Lane, Sr. | 101 West Court Street Marion, S. C. 29571 | 423-6732 |

| County | Officer | Location | Telephone No. |
|--------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Marlboro | Frank S. Ward | County Courthouse P. O. Box 401 Bennettsville, S. C. 29512 | 479-2651 |
| Newberry | Gerald C. O'Quinn | Room 11 County Courthouse P. O. Box 217 Newberry, S. C. 29108 | 276-3233 |
| Oconee | Harrison E. Orr | Public Services Bldg. Broad Street Walhalla, S. C. 29691 | 638-2214 |
| Orangeburg | George E. Hoover | County Courthouse P. O. Box 718 Orangeburg, S. C. 29115 | 534-6484 |
| Pickens | C. Carl Pilgrim | County Courthouse P. O. Box 451 Pickens, S. C. 29671 | 878-4778 |
| Richland | John E. Brewer | Room 275 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, S. C. 29204 | 779-4055 |
| Saluda | Billy C. Coleman | 101 West Church Street Saluda, S. C. 29138 | 445-2184 |
| Spartanburg | M. Frank Edwards | Room 159 County Courthouse Spartanburg, S. C. 29301 | 585-4811 Ext. 266 |
| Sumter | Harold S. Iseman | County Courthouse Sumter, S. C. 29150 | 775-2346 Ext. 37 |
| Union | Charles V. Blackwood | County Courthouse Union, S. C. 29379 | 427-3462 |
| Williamsburg | Cecil H. Robinson | Office #6 Courthouse Square Kingstree, S. C. 29556 | 354-6352 |
| York | Earle B. Gregory | County Office Building P. O. Box 16 Rock Hill, S. C. 29730 | 327-2956 |

MISSION

The Department of Veterans Affairs was originally created in 1927, as the State Service Bureau, by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the purpose "of assisting all ex-servicemen, regardless of the wars in which their service may have been rendered, in filing, presenting and prosecuting to final determination all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training and insurance benefits under the terms of federal legislation relative thereto."

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs Officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and restating the purpose, as amended, "to insure a stabilization and coordination of the service work for and in behalf of the war veterans and ex-servicemen and women of South Carolina, in order that they may be guaranteed the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are 323,000 living veterans in South Carolina as of June 30, 1976, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for increased service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his survivor, or survivors. Our ranks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and retirees of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans, their dependents, beneficiaries, widows and orphans, but we must be able to know where to find the answers. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency are held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the legal principle that no veterans' benefits are awarded automatically—All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administration is not a "hand-out" agency as all claims allowed must be justified; hence, skill and knowledge in service work comes into being when we know what evidence is needed to bring about the favorable decision.

We believe that our record in serving South Carolina veterans, their dependents and survivors is equal to any in the

United States. The Veterans Administration does have authority to resolve benefit of reasonable doubt, based on all available evidence, in adjudicating cases and we are, therefore, able to have many "close" cases allowed on that basis.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of this Department, and the majority of our time is spent, in working with and supervising our forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in helping them with individual cases in their respective counties.

Other major functions performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the law are as follows:

1. Assist veterans, their families and survivors in initiating, filing and prosecuting claims.
2. Represent veterans before the VA Rating Boards and the Board of Appeals.
3. Publish timely informational bulletins on technical rules and regulations relating to veterans' benefits.
4. Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.
5. Conduct Veterans Affairs Officers Schools to instruct in veterans benefits.
6. Maintain complete files on all veterans whom we assist.
7. Assist similar agencies in other states in securing evidence needed in the development of claims.
8. Assist veterans insofar as possible in securing Social Security, Welfare, and related benefits.
9. Assist survivors and morticians in securing burial benefits.
10. Assist all public officials in aiding constituents on veterans affairs.
11. Assist legislators and others in appropriate veterans legislation.

12. Perform a humanitarian service in counseling disabled veterans, veterans' widows, dependent parents and orphans in complete realization of veterans benefits as they best apply in individual cases.
13. Assist veterans in filing applications for review of discharges and in obtaining disability retirement or an increase in disability retirement.
14. Assist in having veterans admitted to the VA Hospitals in Columbia, Charleston, Augusta and other adjacent areas.

A great amount of time is spent by our office personnel in reviewing records at the VA Regional Office, and that work must be done carefully and meticulously, since all of the facts must be known in each case that we handle if we are to expect to receive a favorable decision. We have hearings each day before the VA Rating Boards and much time is consumed in personal interviews, in counseling and in letter writing.

Claimants must be advised through their County Veterans Affairs Officers, or directly, of what can be done, if anything, and what evidence is necessary to establish a VA claim for monetary benefits. Such work is highly technical and a thorough knowledge of VA regulations and applicable legislation is absolutely essential.

In addition to representing claimants and supervising the work of forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in connection with VA compensation and pension claims, which is our principle work, we must have knowledge of the many other facets of veterans benefits such as GI training, GI insurance, VA hospitalization, Civil Service Preference, military hospital treatment, PX privileges, the different types of military retirement pay, War Orphans training, outpatient treatment, reimbursement of unauthorized medical expenses, dental treatment, burial in national and VA cemeteries, and a knowledge of South Carolina State legislation as it affects veterans.

The demands for our services come not only from County

Veterans Affairs Officers, but by request directly from veterans themselves throughout the state, their dependents and survivors, plus requests from elected public officials in behalf of their constituents.

We also find it necessary to deal constantly with other federal agencies, both locally and in Washington, and at other important government installations over the country. Many contacts by correspondence and telephone with other state agencies are made at frequent intervals. This activity involves a wide variety of subjects, but they are concerned with some problem of vital interest to the person we are trying to serve.

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

In October, 1975, the annual conference on Income Questionnaires was sponsored by this office for our County Veterans Affairs Officers and their staffs.

In addition to our county personnel, representatives from the major Veterans Organizations were present along with officials from the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston, and Augusta.

One of the most time consuming, seasonal functions of this Department is assisting pensioners in filing income questionnaires which are required by the Veterans Administration each year. The laws and regulations of reporting income for pension purposes are constantly changing thus a meeting such as this is an essential part of our work.

Officials of the Veterans Administration Regional Office here in Columbia were in charge of giving instructions for the completion of Income Questionnaires.

ITINERANT SERVICES

This Agency has regular itinerant service to the Veterans Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston and Augusta in addition to itinerant service to the S. C. State Hospital where there are approximately 500 veterans and State Park which always has from 10 to 20 veterans in residence.

STATISTICAL REPORT

The following is a report of the number of cases and types of services rendered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers during FY 1975-76:

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Claims:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Compensation, Pension, Education, Insurance and Reopened | 4,910 |
| Correction of Discharge/Records | 73 |
| Correspondence: | |
| Letters Dictated/Typed | 11,300 |
| Form Preparation | 3,016 |
| Hearings Conducted | 183 |
| Interviews | 5,651 |
| Mail: | |
| Incoming and Outgoing | 122,941 |
| Telephone Calls: | |
| Incoming and Outgoing | 42,476 |
| VA Files Reviewed | 2,830 |
| Visits To: | |
| CVAO's, Hospital Wards, VA Hospitals, VA Regional Office | 1,890 |
| Consultations | 1,145 |
| Files: | |
| Requisitioned, Received, Returned | 11,869 |
| Filed and Pulled | 35,063 |
| New Files/File Cards Made and Filed | 4,279 |
| Legislative Material: | |
| Calendars, Journals, Bills, Files for Bills | 1,875 |
| Miscellaneous: | |
| Articles and Deaths Clipped from Newspapers | 5,424 |
| Miscellaneous Reports | 307 |
| Visitors Received | 2,109 |
| Conferences Attended | 18 |
| Meetings Attended | 27 |

FORTY-SIX COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS

| | |
|---|---------|
| Office Contacts | 917,540 |
| Letters and Communications Received | 397,540 |
| Official Visits to VA Installations, Department of Veterans Affairs and other points outside County | 2,462 |
| Miles traveled on official business | 424,987 |
| Compensation Claims prepared, reopened, and appealed | 6,895 |
| D. I. C. claims prepared for dependents | 1,257 |
| Pension Claims: | |
| NSC-PT disability and death pension claims for dependents | 8,068 |
| Insurance applications, claims, etc. | 4,953 |
| Applications for hospital treatment | 15,966 |
| Requests for payment of burial expenses | 6,081 |
| Applications for GI education and training | 7,678 |
| Veterans personally conveyed to VA Hospitals | 1,367 |
| Applications for Correction of Military Records and/or Discharge Change | 1,627 |

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1975-76

Expenditures

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Personal Services | | \$183,903 |
| Operating Expenses | | |
| Contractual Services | \$11,200 | |
| Supplies | 5,300 | |
| Fixed Charges & Contributions | 16,614 | |
| Equipment | 3,300 | 36,414 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Operation of County Offices | | 372,813 |
| Veterans Organizations | | 26,193 |
| | | <hr/> |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | \$619,323 |

MONETARY BENEFITS

The following is a report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependent survivors of deceased veterans in the State of South Carolina for the fiscal year July 1, 1975-June 30, 1976.

Compensation:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Living Veterans | \$ 43,882,606 |
| Dependents of Deceased Veterans | 15,185,066 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$ 59,067,672 |

Pension:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Living Veterans | \$ 26,065,752 |
| Dependents of Deceased Veterans | 20,262,888 |

\$ 46,328,640

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Insurance and Indemnities | \$ | _____ |
| Burial Allowances | \$ | 1,770,552 |
| Educational Benefits | \$ | 102,084,870 |
| Auto Grants | \$ | 221,969 |

Loans:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Direct | \$ 119,922 |
| Guaranteed | \$ 71,967,250 |
| Homes for Paraplegics | \$ 408,000 |

Total\$176,572,563

Medical Services and Administration Costs\$ 37,049,134

TOTAL:\$319,018,009

VETERAN POPULATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

JUNE 30, 1975

| <i>County</i> | <i>Total Veterans</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ABBEVILLE | 2,549 |
| AIKEN | 14,556 |
| ALLENDALE | 774 |
| ANDERSON | 16,258 |
| BAMBERG | 1,387 |
| BARNWELL | 1,871 |
| BEAUFORT | 3,613 |
| BERKELEY | 4,647 |
| CALHOUN | 677 |
| CHARLESTON | 32,984 |
| CHEROKEE | 4,582 |
| CHESTER | 3,323 |
| CHESTERFIELD | 3,194 |
| CLARENDON | 1,386 |
| COLLETON | 2,388 |
| DARLINGTON | 5,840 |
| DILLON | 2,388 |
| DORCHESTER | 2,806 |
| EDGEFIELD | 1,355 |
| FAIRFIELD | 1,870 |
| FLORENCE | 9,585 |
| GEORGETOWN | 3,387 |
| GREENVILLE | 37,439 |
| GREENWOOD | 7,325 |
| HAMPTON | 1,517 |
| HORRY | 7,680 |
| JASPER | 1,354 |
| KERSHAW | 3,934 |
| LANCASTER | 5,747 |
| LAURENS | 6,550 |
| LEE | 1,097 |
| LEXINGTON | 11,504 |

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| MARION | 2,646 |
| MARLBORO | 2,193 |
| McCORMICK | 678 |
| NEWBERRY | 3,871 |
| OCONEE | 6,488 |
| ORANGEBURG | 6,421 |
| PICKENS | 7,940 |
| RICHLAND | 34,210 |
| SALUDA | 1,549 |
| SPARTANBURG | 26,011 |
| SUMTER | 6,714 |
| UNION | 4,513 |
| WILLIAMSBURG | 2,195 |
| YORK | 12,004 |
| TOTAL | 323,000 |
| VETERANS RECEIVING | |
| SERVICE CONNECTED | |
| COMPENSATION | 22,448 |
| VETERANS DRAWING | |
| NONSERVICE | |
| CONNECTED PENSION | 16,074 |

FREE TUITION

This agency administers the Free Tuition Program for the children of certain veterans under the provisions of Section 22-56 of the 1962 Code of Laws, as amended.

During the last five fiscal years, a total of 923 applications have been approved for Free Tuition for all colleges, technical schools or technical institutions and the number for each fiscal year is listed below:

| | | |
|---------|-------|-----|
| 1975-76 | | 428 |
| 1974-75 | | 321 |
| 1973-74 | | 99 |
| 1972-73 | | 50 |
| 1971-72 | | 25 |

It has also been a pleasure for this agency to work with the fine cooperation of the Commissioners: Honorable James B. Edwards, Governor; Honorable Robert L. McCrady, The Adjutant General; and Honorable Daniel R. McLeod, The Attorney General.